Mountain Gorillas

GREAT APES CONSERVATION FUND

Mountain Gorillas lead a fragile existence. Confined to the transboundary area of Uganda, Rwanda, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) known as the Albertine Rift, Mountain Gorillas are threatened by habitat loss due to expanding human populations, illegal charcoal production, poaching and continued disturbance from civil conflict.

These remarkable primates share almost 98% of their DNA with humans, live in stable family groups, and have primarily vegetarian diets, comprised of leaves, shoots, and stems of herbaceous vegetation. Only 700 Mountain Gorillas survive today, spread among four national parks: Virunga National Park (DRC), Volcanoes National Park (Rwanda), Mgahinga Gorilla National Park and Bwindi Impenetrable National Park (Uganda). (Map page 2)

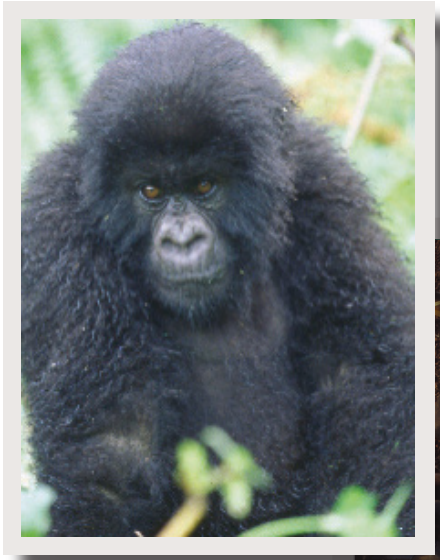
The indiscriminate killing of Mountain Gorillas in 2007 focused worldwide attention on the need to do more to protect these highly intelligent and unique apes.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) supports conservation efforts to protect Mountain Gorillas and other ape species across Africa via the **Great Apes Conservation Fund**.

The USFWS support emphasizes direct action in the field including: building institutional and human resource capacity, improving law enforcement, outreach to local communities, providing economic incentives for conservation, and applied research to provide scientific information for conservation and management.

Designed to respond rapidly and efficiently to high priority conservation needs, the Great Apes Conservation Fund provides direct field support to those organizations best placed to achieve results.

Of particular importance is our collaboration with the Central African Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE) of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), through which the USFWS receives a portion of funding for the Great Apes Conservation Fund. Our conservation efforts in the Congo Basin are closely coordinated with CARPE partners' activities and governmental and NGO conservation partners. The commitment and expertise of our collaborators in Africa, are instrumental to the success of all USFWS-supported projects on the continent.



Above: Juvenile Mountain Gorilla

Top Right: Silverback Mountain Gorilla feeds in a forest opening

Left: Guns confiscated from commercial bushmeat hunters

The following are grants from the Great Ape Conservation Fund that are active or have been awarded in Fiscal Year 2007. They reflect FWS's support to our partners in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Albertine Rift transfrontier area, including Virunga National Park.

- **Improved Law Enforcement for Protection of Mountain Gorillas Through Greater Transboundary Cooperation and Training, Uganda, Rwanda and Democratic Republic of the Congo** Recipient: African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) USFWS award amount: $300,000 Leveraged funds: 361,500

- **Confiscated Eastern Gorilla Rehabilitation and Planning for Reintroduction and Long Term Management, Democratic Republic of the Congo.** Recipient: Mountain Gorilla Veterinary Project (MGVP) USFWS award amount: $77,246.00 Leveraged funds: $168,505

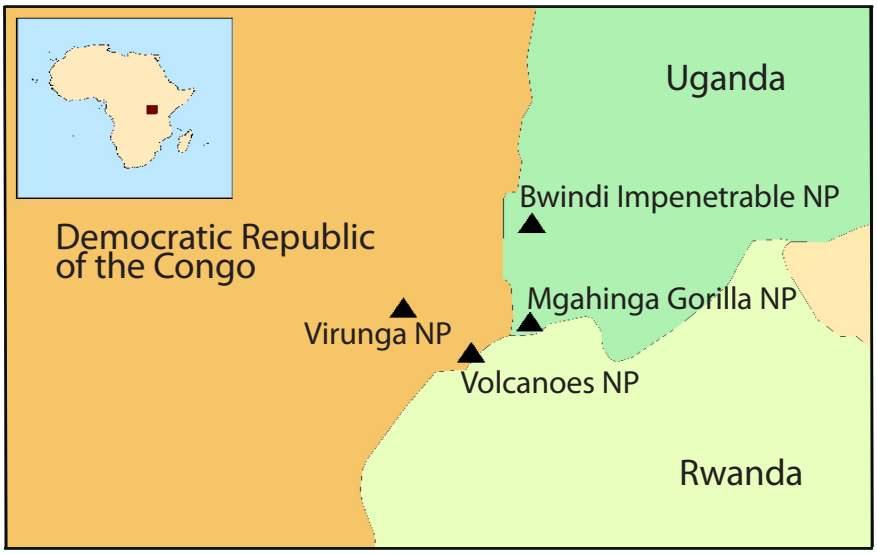
- **Community Conservation: Establishing Physical Boundary Demarcations for the Tayna Gorilla Reserve, Democratic Republic of the Congo.** Recipient: Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International (DFGFI) USFWS award amount: $51,520.00 Leveraged funds: $68,317.00

- **An Economic Study of Mountain Gorilla Tourism in the Virunga Volcanoes Conservation Area, Rwanda and Democratic Republic of the Congo.** Recipient: Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International (DFGFI) USFWS award amount: $17,316 Leveraged funds: $42,902

- **Monitoring the Post-conflict Recovery of Gorillas and Chimpanzees in Parc National de Kahuzi Biega, Democratic Republic of the Congo.** Recipient: Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) USFWS award amount: $77,231.00 Leveraged funds: $84,477

- **Health Protection and Health Monitoring Program for the Recovery of Gorillas and Chimpanzees in Parc National de Kahuzi Biega, Democratic Republic of the Congo.** Recipient: Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) USFWS award amount: $89,603 Leveraged funds: $188,956

Great Ape Conservation Fund Africa	FY 2006	FY 2007
Amount Awarded from Congressional Appropriations	$700,000	$700,000
USAID	2.5 million	2.5 million
Number of Projects	47	35



Location of Mountain Gorillas

- **Building Capacity for Great Ape Conservation in Democratic Republic of the Congo.** Recipient: Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) USFWS grant amount: $163,207 Leveraged funds: $78,083

- **Strengthening transboundary collaborative processes in the Virunga Massif-Bwindi forest ecosystem, Uganda, Rwanda and Democratic Republic of the Congo.** Applicant: International Gorilla Conservation Programme (IGCP) USFWS grant amount: $96,610 Leveraged funds: $205,440

- **The Great Apes Conservation Education Initiative for Uganda.** Recipient: Wildlife Clubs of Uganda USFWS grant amount: $52,019 Leveraged funds: $12,329

- **Prospects for Growth: Assessment of Population Trends, Habitat Utilization and Habitat Availability, and Genetic Variability of Bwindi Mountain Gorillas, Uganda.** Recipient: Institute of Tropical Forest Conservation USFWS grant amount: $47,352.00 Leveraged funds: $58,440

- **Survey of Chimpanzees in the Virunga National Park and the Potential Corridor to Mt. Hoyo, Democratic Republic of the Congo.** Applicant: Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) USFWS grant amount: $59,413 Leveraged funds:$36,976

- **Itombwe Massif Conservation Project: Delimitation and Zoning of the Itombwe Natural Reserve for Protection of Great Apes, Democratic Republic of the Congo.** Applicant: Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) USFWS grant amount: $161,757 Leveraged funds: $58,589

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